BENTLEY'S PATENT PORCELAIN LETTERS.

"Come like shadows, so depart."
SHAKESPEARE.

WELL, and it may be asked by some of our readers, how do shadows come? We can recollect that In the days of plain painting and stenciling, they came not at all; and when Mr. Bentley made an advance upon *the mode*, shadows came only when the sunshine came; but so do people become adepts, and skilful, by long practice, in their particular art, that the very laws of nature seem to come under their control. And as Joshua could command the sun to stand still, so Mr. Bentley attained to a mastery of his attendant shadows, and actually *ranked* them to the wall, or screwed them to our sign-boards. Who, that does not remember the first administerings to our cravings in the wood and block-metal letter way? But then, bold and substantial as the style assumed to be, indicative of the well-to-do, as though we could afford the labour we mocked; and in imitating stones and marbles, there was the boast of the *basso relievo*, of generous cuttings away, instead of the mere cutting and notching in; still bold, we say, as the style assumed to be, the bold block-letter looked very lugubrious in a cheerless, sunless day; and even when the sun did shine, there were to be seen one-half these tenants of a street sleeping sulkily in the shade of one side, while those of the other looked jeringly across, with brightly lit-up faces, and rich in the companionship of those *friends in good fortune*, telling *trustful* shadows.

Mr. Bentley, we suppose, had seen this, and taking active heed of the wants and denials of his progeny, wishing to be the impartial parent of all his lettered family, getting a trick or two perhaps from the Greeks, whose dandling of the shadows he might have heard of—or rather of their painting and tattooing them—Mr. Bentley, in the fulness of his heart or head, we care not which, determined that there should be no priority of privilege among-st those he had called forth, in fact that it should be a "*republic of letters*,"—all on terms of equality—every substance its shadow, and every shadow a substance: thus came forth the family of *solid shaded letters*, and thus was achieved their independence from the laws of a solar despot, upon whose smiles they had before so much depended, and beneath whose frowns they had sorrowed and had pined. But in time it came to be observed that there was another rule from whence the democracy of the alphabet had to be emancipated—a petti-er, and, therefore, a more contemptible tyranny—and, therefore, also, one which a less doughty champion might with full effect assail. The broad sunlight had been defied, and mere day-light made a stipulation, and eke the gas—limiting the sleep of letters to that of their betters—men—yet there was a spirit of *foul* and *filthy* province, one who sets her throne up with many of the same *kidney*, in crowded towns and cities,—"their name is Legion"—there was the murky and grim-visaged idol apeing the powers of a God, and setting the stamp of his image upon all the fair things of *Bentley's* creation—soot, and filth, and grease, its agents, brooded no and about those objects of their lewd attachment, and all terrodingly, as all parasites do, into the heart and vitals of their victims—so wooden letters, all bedizened though they were with gold and colours, fell speedy victims to the foul insidious; and nothing but the furnace-tried were thought to be capable of withstanding them; thenceforth, we had the porcelain A B C, fused, and baked, and glazed, proof against the insinuations and assaults of the enemy in question; spruce, blithsome, and cheerful, in every aspect and condition, and sporting all the colours of the rainbow, with full immunity from the jealousy of all assailants.

But all was not done as yet; there was a superficiality at best in all these workings, and the refulgent light of science was invoked in behalf of the mystic and cabalistic *signs*. Isometry came to Mr. Bentley's aid, and between them was produced the subject of a patent. Isometry, which may be mistaken by some as one of those foreign gentlemen who make *communications from abroad*.—isometry, whose name is not in the patent, had a principality, [illegible] the substance of progress, for dependent upon it, and through the efficacy of its rules, projection is given, and bits of metal plate, and thus porcelain, assume all the aspects of depth and solidity.

How far all this may square with the dicta of modern crusaders against "*pretendons*" and "*impositions*," we shall not now stand to inquire. Imitations of marbles and metals, but worse than all, imitations of shadows and substances, may excite their wrath, but invention must go on, and under it, the influence of exterior circumstance be gradually weakened, until finite existences are fully developed. We have heard of illuminated letters, but these are but the type of what we may expect to see, when inventive genius takes to giving the definition of the word. It will not surprise us to see our streets lit by *glowing metaphors*, and truly illuminated letters shining from the facias of our shop fronts, independent of daylight, as well as sunlight.

VALENCIA SLATE.

THE introduction of this material into the market, as it is now brought forward, will have an extraordinary influence on building commerce; the prices are so moderate as to compel the use of it in a hundred cases where other materials have been before applied, and also to suggest its application for a hundred new uses; it comes in a fully prepared state, sawn fair on both sides, and taken to a gauge of length and width. The objections which the first importations were exposed to, as being from the upper working of the quarry, are now done away with, as a superior solid quality is being obtained from the lower beds, the quarry being largely opened, and working on an extensive scale. ¼ inch slabs—and every body is now acquainted with the superior bearing powers of slate over all other descriptions of laminated material—may be had at the low price of 4d. per foot up to 6 feet by 3 feet 6 inches, ⅜ inch 5½d. and inch at 7½d. So much is being done in slate, and so much remains to be done. So much of national prosperity is hinged upon the full development of the worth of our slate quarries, and so important is the question to art and industry, that we shall embrace so early opportunity of dealing with the question of "Slate Architecture," as we propose to do with the granites, with iron, and other native products, convinced that by so doing we are pursuing the best course of practical patriotism.

VENTILATION.—Did people put proper value on ventilation of apartments, as regards health, it would be more attended to than it is, of which the following fact is a proof. Some years back no less a number than 2,944 infants, out of 7,650, died in the Dublin Lying-in Hospital, in the space of four years, within a fortnight after their birth. It was discovered that this circumstance arose from the want of a sufficient quantity of good air. The hospital, therefore, was completely ventilated, and the proportion of deaths was reduced to 279; so that out of 2,944 who had perished in the four preceding years, no less a number than 2,665 had perished (if not solely, nearly so) from the foulness of the air. Bed-room windows (others, of course) should be left open the greater part of the day, in all seasons of the year; no bed should be made for at least three hours after it has been occupied; and, previously to its being made, all the clothes belonging to it should be exposed separately to the air.

MINERAL WEALTH OF IRELAND.—It is not only in its agriculture that Ireland is susceptible of great improvement; almost every county abounds in mineral wealth; iron, copper, lead silver, tin, antimony, and gold, are found in various districts; three former are rich ores, capable of being easily worked. Sulphur, cobalt, talc, ochres, gypsum, fuller's earth, marble, porphyry, granite, slate, and lime are abundant. The minor productions of the counties through which the railway (Dublin and Cork) would pass, have been thus specified:—Cork—Coal, iron, copper, lead, ochres, and potter's clay. Tipperary—Coal, iron, copper, lead, silver, talc, slate, and marble. Waterford—Copper, iron, green marble. Limerick—Coal, iron, copper, lead, slate. Kerry—Lead, copper, cobalt, and marble. Kilkenny—Coal, iron, marble, jasper, pipe-clay, and granite. Queen's County—Coal, iron, copper, and marble. Carlow—Talc, marble, ochres, and granite. Wexford—Coal and lead. Wicklow—Gold, copper, [illegible]

NEW CHURCHES.

Penzance.—A new Roman Catholic chapel was opened at Penzance on the 26th ult.

Wrotham.—The new church here, to which we adverted in our last, is from the designs of Messrs. Whichcord and Walker; it affords accommodation for 500 persons; the plan is cruciform, and includes a chancel, nave, and transepts; the style is early English, with a large western tower. Its roof is of timber, showing internally the entire framing. The nave and transepts are fitted up with low pews and free seats, and the chancel entirely free from any encumbrance. The church is also without galleries, except the tower, which is to contain an organ and singers. The church is situated in a most romantic and elevated situation on the road to Plaistol, and the tower, which is 65 feet high, is visible for very many miles round. A very chaste and beautiful stained-glass window over the altar, the munificent present of the Rev. — Randolph, attracted universal admiration; it is of very elaborate design in imitation of the early English stained-glass, and produces so admirable subdued light over the whole of the chancel. A very handsome silver altar service has also been presented to the church by Miss Yates, of Fairlawn, and a stone font by Colonel Austen.

Swansea.—A new church in the early English manner, from the designs of Messrs. Wyatt and Brandon, architects, was opened here on the 26th ult. It is styled Trinity Church. It is 127 feet by 47, interior dimensions will accommodate 1,200 persons. Mr. Baker, of Bristol, was the contractor, under whom were Mr. Bird, the mason, and Mr. Crispin, carpenter; the cost 2,490*l.*, which was raised by private subscription.

Headless Cross.—A handsome church, after the Norman manner, by Mr. Harvey Egnton, of Worcester, was consecrated on Friday se'nnight. It is built of stone, and liberally adorned with carvings.

Oldswinford.—The new parish church, in the style of the 13th century, was opened on Sunday se'nnight. Stained glass and rich tracery adorn the windows; 5,000*l.* has been spent in its erection, raised from voluntary subscriptions and grants from the Incorporated and the Worcester Diocesan Societies. It contains 1,487 sittings, of which 784 are free.

SCHOOLS.

Hereford.—An attempt is being made to divert upwards of 6,000*l.*, the funds of the Scudamore charity, to building and endowing schools for poor children, in the city of Hereford. The bishop, we understand, is opposed to it.

Agricultural Colleges.—The establishment of this most important class of institutions is now being advocated with renewed energy. The *Wiltshire Independent* has a lengthened article on the subject in last week's number; allusion is made to the experimental farm at Templemoyle, Ireland. These things are inevitable results of the present tidal progress of events; nothing can hinder, nor much longer stay their introduction generally.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Harbours of Refuge.—In the Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Shipwrecks, it is recommended to appropriate a large sum from the national funds to the construction of harbours of refuge, particularly in the channel.

County Asylum, Lancaster.—The magistrates voted 8,500*l.* on the 27th ult. for the enlargement of the asylum.

Burton-on-Trent.—We understand it is in contemplation to make a canal from the River Trent to the principal breweries of this flourishing little town.

Victoria County.—We understand the Company of Proprietors for reclaiming the great estuary of the Wash below the ports of Lynn, Wisbech, and Boston (whereby upwards of 250,000 acres of land will be brought into cultivation, and a county of more extensive area than the county of Rutland will be established, to be called Victoria County), have [illegible] Parliament in the

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